

## PREFACE

Between 1981–1984, I assisted the late Dr. Moshe Prausnitz (1922–1998), then the Northern District Archaeologist of the Israel Department of Antiquities (today the Israel Antiquities Authority), in processing the finds from his excavations in the Southern Cemetery of Achziv (Plan 1). Dr. Prausnitz had excavated at Tel Achziv and its surrounding cemeteries for more than twenty five years—from 1958–1984—and it was his vast knowledge and love of the Phoenician culture that first opened this wonderful world to me. In 1984, he included me as co-director of his dig in the Northern Cemetery, after which he gave me his blessing to continue excavations on my own, on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in the Southern Cemetery (published in CAM 7) and in the Northern Cemetery (published in CAM 10 and here; Photos 1–2).

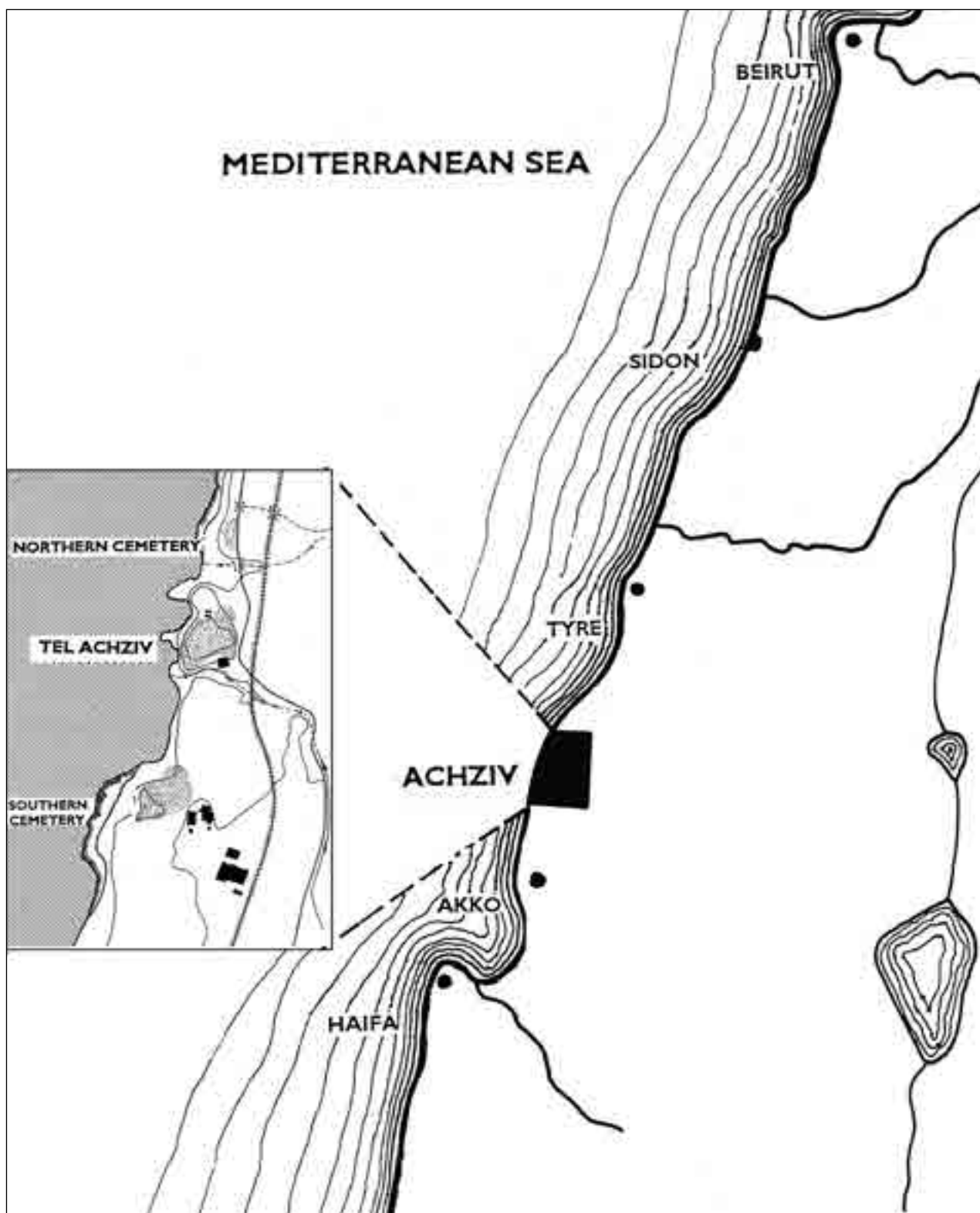
The late Prof. Benjamin Mazar (1906–1995), the esteemed Israeli archaeologist and historian who was not only my beloved grandfather but also my mentor, closely followed my work on the Phoenicians. His own publications on this subject, which were published in his book over 25 years ago, are still recognized as among the most important studies of the Phoenician culture.<sup>1</sup> During each excavation season between 1988 and 1994—a year before his death at the age of 90—he would come and stay for a week in one of the hotels near the site, coming to visit us at work every day. It is no wonder that we miss his wisdom and presence so much, but still find some comfort in continuing his study and love for this fascinating topic (Photo 3).

The work in the Northern Cemetery first began as a salvage excavation after the western edge of the site was damaged during roadwork carried out along the coast. Although the area we excavated during this first season was rather small, we were nevertheless able to discern the existence of a cremation burial cult associated with a plastered structure of some sort. We could already see that a Large Stone found at the site played a part in this structure (Plan 2; Photos 4–9; fig.1), though at the time we did not entirely understand what it was. It was only over the course of the ensuing four excavation seasons that we were able to piece together the different elements of the site and identify it as a *Tophet*. Our work had taken place during 1984, 1988 – 1990, after the many excavation seasons conducted by Dr. Immanuel Ben-Dor in 1941–1944 and by Dr. Moshe Prausnitz in 1958 – 1980 in the Southern and Eastern Cemeteries, and we thus realized that the Northern Cemetery represented a different side of the same burial cult found throughout the site. The Northern Cemetery was dedicated to the cremation burial cult characterized by the crematorium structure surrounded by dozens of cremation burials, while the other cemeteries were used for family tombs in which only inhumation burials were placed.

We received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the residents of the region, such as those from the city of Nahariya in the south, and up to Kibbutz Rosh HaNikra in the north, along the country's border with Lebanon. Many came to volunteer and others assisted in various ways. I wish to especially thank the families of Roni and

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1. These include «The Philistines and the Rise of Israel and Tyre,» «The Phoenicians in the Levant,» and «The Phoenician Inscriptions from Byblos and the Evolution of the Phoenician-Hebrew Alphabet» all in B.Mazar 1986, *The Early Biblical Period*, Historical Studies, Jerusalem.



PLAN 1. Site plan locating the cemeteries of Achziv during the Iron Age II period (Achziv North, and Achziv South).

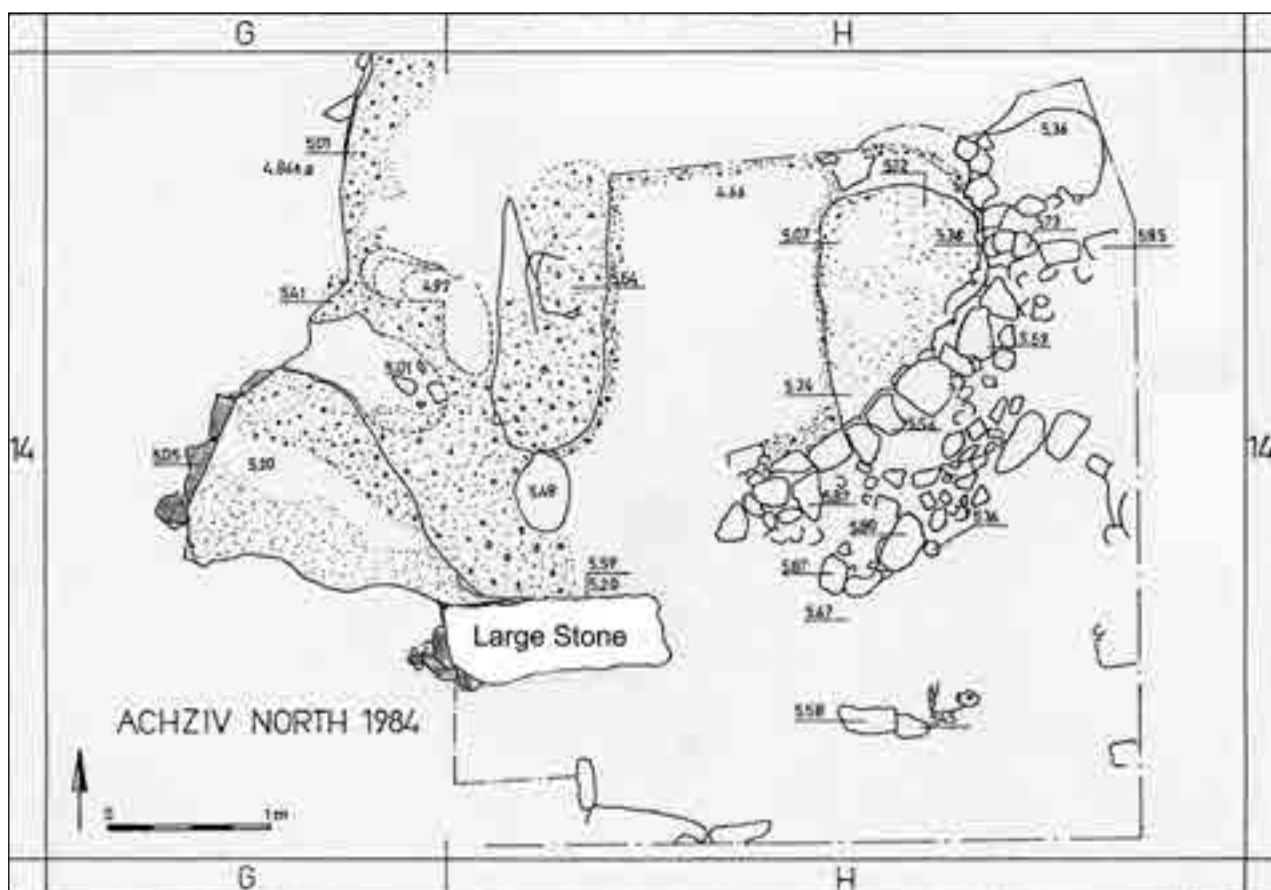
# PREFACE



PHOTO 1. Dr. Moshe Prausnitz and his wife Vera at the site during the 1984 Achziv excavation season.



PHOTO 2. Dr. Moshe Prausnitz with workers during the 1984 excavation.



PLAN 2. The excavation area of the Northern Cemetery during the 1984 season.

# THE NORTHERN CEMETERY OF ACHZIV (10<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES BCE)



PHOTO 3. Prof. Benjamin Mazar visiting Achziv excavation in 1992. On the left, Eilat Mazar (8 month pregnant with her third child) and on the right, Katherine Dempsi-Amrani, the supervisor of Area C.



PHOTO 4. First cleaning of the site before starting the excavations. Looking to the north towards the white chalk cliff of Rosh Hanikra.

PHOTO 7. The Plastered Platform as found after being damaged by road work. The plaster of the Plastered Platform climbs on the side of the Large Stone, indicating it was an integral part of the earlier architectural phase.



PHOTO 5. Inhumation child burial and broken jar found on the Plastered Platform during 1984 excavations. The thick plaster floor of the Plastered Platform climbs on the lowest course of W32, thus proving that the wall originated in the first construction phase of the site. Looking to the north east.



PHOTO 6. Child burial in a grave dug into the earth accumulation on top of the Plastered Platform. The thick plaster floor of the Plastered Platform climbs on the lowest course of W32, thus proving that the wall originated in the first construction phase of the site. Looking north east.







PHOTO 8. The Spanish archeologist, Lola Herrera, who joined the 1984 season. She discovered the first urn at the site, adjacent to the southern side of the Plastered Platform. [In 2004, Herrera's PHD dissertation was published in Herrera, Maria D and Francisco Gomez (2004) *Tell Abu Hawam (Haifa, Israel). El horizonte fenicio del Stratum III británico*, Huelva, Universidad de Huelva - Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca].



PHOTO 9. The first cremation burial found during the 1984 excavations. The urn was buried at the foot of the southern side of the Large Stone.



PHOTO 10. The excavation team of the 1992 season from left to right: Katherine Dempsi-Amrani, Masha (Maria) Kaplan, Tami Shabi and Amir Balaban (Eilat Mazar took the picture).



PHOTO 11. The excavation team of the 1994 season standing from left to right: Alexander Pechuro, Shlomit Atzmon, Tami Shabi, Maydva (Eilat's daughter), Eilat Mazar. Sitting from left to right: three visitors and Sivan Sarig.

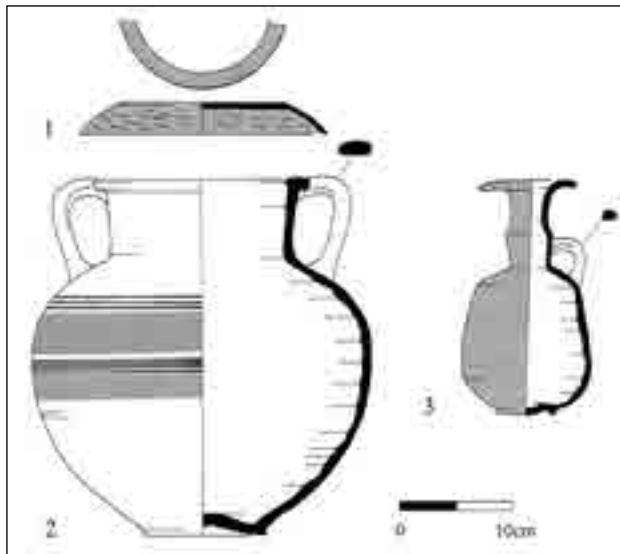


FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 1. – L313 (from 1984 season)

Nº	Type	Reg. nº	Description
1	Cover (?) bowl	100/1	Brown clay and core, red slip and burnish, red stripe on the base
2	Urn/krater	100/2	Light brown clay and core, red and black stripes
3	Mushroom-rim jug	122	Brown clay and core, red slip



PHOTO 12. The excavation team of the 2002 season standing from left to right: Einat Flaum, Carolina Aznar, Yiftah Shalev, a visitor, Eilat Mazar, Sivan Sarig, Snir, Maydva, Dvir and Ophir (Eilat's children), Ditza Shmuel (the excavator of TN1) and a visitor. Sitting from left to right: a visitor, Orit Peleg, a visitor and Ruth Rivak.



PHOTO 13. The excavation team of the 2004 season standing from left to right: Dalit Weinblatt-Krauss, Peretz Reuven, Snir (Eilat's son), Eilat Mazar, a visitor, Michal Druk, Dvir (Eilat's son) and a visitor. Sitting from left to right: Rahel Ben-Dov, Yodfat (Michal's daughter), Einat Flaum, David Milson and Ben Gordon.

Yael Briller and Eitan and Orna Moller of Nahariya, both veteran residents of Nahariya who helped in whatever way they could. My relationships with these families continue to this day, far beyond the excavations.

While excavating the Northern Cemetery, we stayed at Yad LeYad, a nearby campsite and hostel. This location was perfect for us as it was only 200 meters walking distance from our site. The excavations took place for about four weeks in the summer of 1992, 1994, 2002, and 2004, and I extend special thanks to all those who worked with us, especially the members of the excavation team. Without their professionalism, dedication and devotion, the excavation could not have been as successful as it was (Photos 10–13).

The area supervisors: Amir Balaban, Ben Gordon, Carolina Aznar, Dalit Weinblatt-Krause, Katherine Dempsey-Amrani, Orit Peleg, Peretz Reuven, Rachel Ben-Dov, Reut Livyatan Ben-Arieh, Shlomit Atzmon, Tami Shabi, and Yiftah Shalev.

## PREFACE



PHOTO 14. The 1993 exhibition in the Jerusalem Bible Lands Museum displaying the finds from the 1992 Achziv excavations at the Tophet site.

The surveyors: David Milson, Alexander Pechuro, Masha Kaplan and Israel Vatkin

The registrars: Sivan Sarig and Michal Druk.

All photographs were taken by Eilat Mazar.

Restoration of the finds: Ruth Rivak and Ora Mazar.

Preservation of the finds: Mimi Lavie, director of the conservation laboratory of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University.

Finds drawings: Mika Sarig, Sarah Halbreich, Leonid Rickman, and Dalit Weinblatt-Krause.

Special thanks go to Sveta Matskevich who prepared all the final plans and maps of the site for publication, to Roni Peleg who translated the text into English, and to Michal Haber and Tyrel Schlote who edited the text. All worked with marked professionalism and dedication. We thank Herbert W. Armstrong College for supporting the final editing of the manuscript for publication.

Special thanks also go to Noga Cohen-Alloro who assisted in processing the finds and preparing the photos and illustrations for publication.

The 1992 and 1994 excavation seasons were supported by Dr. Elie Borowski of the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem, with an exhibition of the *Tophet* held there in 1993 (Photo 14). The 2002 and 2004 seasons, along with the processing of the finds from the excavations for publication in the CAM series, were made possible by Mr. Sam Turner, who was introduced to the project by a dear mutual friend, Mr. Hershel Shanks, founder and editor of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*. We would like to thank Mr. Turner both for his ongoing financial support as well as for his strong and encouraging friendship. We have named the Achziv project in his honor, and hope that the Sam Turner Expedition will include both future excavation seasons as well as published reports.

Finally, I wish to extend my deepest thanks to Prof. Maria Eugenia Aubet from the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona, an eminent scholar of the Phoenicians whose motivation and encouragement enabled the publication of the 1988–2004 excavations of the Achziv Southern and Northern Cemeteries in the *Cuadernos de Arqueologia Mediterránea* monograph series.

*The Phoenician culture is rich and highly skilled in multiple fields and subjects. It has reached a prominent place in the cultural heritage of humankind by using its multifaceted wisdom and talents in peaceful endeavors among the countries of the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea. May this spirit influence all countries, propelling them towards a better future and great cultural achievements.*

*Dr. Eilat Mazar  
Jerusalem 2012*

